

4 specification from a network application;  
5 means for transmitting a transaction request from the transactional application;  
6 and  
7 means for processing the transaction request, including performing object routing.

1 <sup>2</sup>  
~~56.~~ (New) The switch as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~55~~, wherein the means for switching further  
2 comprises:

3 means for receiving the user specification;  
4 means for enabling a switch to the transactional application; and  
5 means for activating the transactional application.

1 <sup>3</sup>  
~~57.~~ (New) The switch as claimed in claim <sup>2</sup>~~56~~, wherein means for activating the  
2 transactional application further includes means for creating a transaction link  
3 between the user application and the transactional application.

1 <sup>4</sup>  
~~58.~~ (New) The switch as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~57~~, wherein the means for processing the  
2 transaction request further comprises means for coupling the means for  
3 transmitting to a host containing data corresponding to the transaction.

1 <sup>5</sup>  
~~59.~~ (New) The switch as claimed in claim <sup>4</sup>~~58~~, further including means for activating  
2 an agent to create a transaction link between the user application and the  
3 transactional application.

1 <sup>6</sup>  
~~60.~~ (New) The switch as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~59~~, further including a means for  
2 automated state management and service network control.

1 <sup>7</sup>  
~~61.~~ (New) The switch as claimed in claim <sup>1</sup>~~60~~, further including a means for

2 automating a transaction from beginning to end in real time.

1 ~~8~~ 62. (New) The switch as claimed in claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, further including a means for keeping a  
2 transaction captive for aggregation of content associated with the transaction.

1 ~~9~~ 63. (New) The switch as claimed in claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, further including a means for  
2 intelligently connecting a transaction for usage-based services.

1 ~~10~~ 64. (New) The switch as claimed in claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, further including a means for  
2 connecting the subscriber to multiple content publishers backend network nodes.

1 ~~11~~ 65. (New) The switch as claimed in claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, further including a means for dynamic  
2 virtual packaging.

1 ~~12~~ 66. (New) The switch as claimed in claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, further including a means for creating  
2 a value-added service specific virtual private network of remote service partners.

1 ~~13~~ 67. (New) A method for performing real-time transactions on a value-added network,  
2 comprising:

3 providing a transactional application selection mechanism to allow a user to select  
4 a transactional application, wherein the transactional application selection  
5 mechanism is associated with a Web server and a Web page;

6 receiving a request at the Web server in response to providing the transactional  
7 application selection mechanism, wherein the request is a request to use the  
8 transactional application to perform an interactive real-time transaction;

9 switching to the transactional application in response to receiving the request, by  
10 instructing the Web server to hand over the request to the transactional  
11 application; and

12 requesting transaction data from one or more other computer systems connected  
13 with the value-added network with the transactional application, wherein the  
14 transaction data allows the user to perform the interactive real-time transaction on  
15 the value-added network.

1 <sup>14</sup>~~68~~. (New) The method of claim <sup>13</sup>~~67~~, wherein switching includes using a routing switch  
2 within the application layer of the OSI model to perform application layer routing.

1 <sup>15</sup>~~69~~. (New) The method of claim <sup>13</sup>~~67~~, wherein switching further comprises:  
2 enabling a switch to the transactional application; and

3 activating the transactional application.

1 <sup>16</sup>~~70~~. (New) The method of claim <sup>15</sup>~~69~~, wherein said activating the transactional  
2 application further includes creating a transaction link between a network  
3 application associated with the user and the transactional application.

1 <sup>17</sup>~~71~~. (New) The method of claim <sup>13</sup>~~67~~, wherein the one or more other computer systems  
2 connected with the value-added network includes a data repository, the method  
3 further including retrieving data from the data repository by multi-protocol object  
4 routing.

1 <sup>18</sup>~~72~~. (New) The method of claim <sup>17</sup>~~71~~, further including using the Web server to process  
2 the request for transaction data and retrieve data corresponding to the transaction  
3 from the data repository.

1 <sup>19</sup>~~73~~. (New) The method of claim <sup>17</sup>~~71~~, wherein the data repository is a data repository to  
2 store banking data, wherein retrieving data includes retrieving banking data to  
3 complete a banking transaction.

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(New) The method of claim ~~67~~, wherein the value-added network is a service specific virtual private network of remote service partners operating within an IP-based facilities network, wherein the service specific virtual private network is managed by using distributed control.

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(New) The method of claim ~~67~~, wherein the transactional application uses switching and object routing to execute the transaction.

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(New) The method of claim ~~67~~, further including using the transactional application to keep a transaction captive for aggregation of content associated with the transaction.

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(New) The method of claim ~~67~~, further including using multi-protocol object routing and a security mechanism to perform the transaction.

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(New) The method of claim ~~67~~, further including executing the transaction in a distributed computing environment, including creating a plurality of skeleton objects on a computer system remote to the user, registering the plurality of skeleton objects in a name server associated with the remote computer system, and transferring one or more stub objects to a computer system local to the user, wherein the one or more stub objects are derived from the plurality of skeleton objects.

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(New) The method of claim ~~67~~ further including executing the transaction by using a Distributed Online Service Information Base.

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(New) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions, for performing real-time transactions on a value-added network, which when executed cause a machine to:

4 provide a transactional application selection mechanism to allow a user to select a  
5 transactional application, wherein the transactional application selection  
6 mechanism is associated with a Web server and a Web page;

7 receive a request at the Web server in response to providing the transactional  
8 application selection mechanism, wherein the request is a request to use the  
9 transactional application to perform an interactive real-time transaction;

10 switch to the transactional application in response to receiving the request, by  
11 instructing the Web server to hand over the request to the transactional  
12 application; and

13 request transaction data from one or more other computer systems connected with  
14 the value-added network with the transactional application, wherein the  
15 transaction data allows the user to perform the interactive real-time transaction on  
16 the value-added network.

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27. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim <sup>26</sup>80, wherein the instructions for  
2 switching further comprise instructions causing the machine to:

3 enable a switch to the transactional application; and

4 activate the transactional application, including creating a transaction link  
5 between a network application associated with the user and the transactional  
6 application.

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28. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim <sup>27</sup>81, wherein the instructions to  
2 switch further include instructions causing the machine to use a routing switch  
3 within the application layer of the OSI model to perform application layer routing.

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1 83. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the one or more other  
2 computer systems connected with the value-added network includes a data  
3 repository, and wherein the instructions further include instructions causing the  
4 machine to retrieve data from the data repository by multi-protocol object routing.

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1 84. (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the instructions  
2 further comprise instructions causing the machine to execute the transaction in a  
3 distributed computing environment, including instructions to create a plurality of  
4 skeleton objects on a computer system remote to the user, register the plurality of  
5 skeleton objects in a name server associated with the remote computer system,  
6 and transfer one or more stub objects to a computer system local to the user,  
7 wherein the one or more stub objects are derived from the plurality of skeleton  
8 objects.

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